

Tanzania Claims U.S. Plots Coup; 'Letters' Printed

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Reuters

DAR-ESS-SALAAM, Nov. 11 —The government of Tanzania—the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar—today told the Organization of African Unity of the discovery of a Western plot to “overthrow the Tanzania government.”

At the same time, the Tanzania government newspaper The Nationalist published what it claimed was “documentary evidence” of Western plotting against the government, including alleged United States support for Portugal in bombing Chinese Communist supply points in Tanganyika.

External Affairs Minister Oscar Kambona said Tanzania had gathered sufficient evidence to reveal the plot. He said it “would use Portuguese and South African mercenaries to attack points of strategic importance to the security of both the United Republic and nationalist and liberation movements.”

The Nationalist said its evidence consisted of three photostated letters written in French. Two purportedly were written by an ambassador to a foreign minister and the third purportedly was sent to an ambassador from a person who had accepted “the delicate mission which you have entrusted me in Tanganyika.”

The name of the embassy alleged to have sent the letters and the government to which they were addressed were erased and replaced by crosses. English translations were printed alongside.

The first letter from the ambassador to the foreign minister said the embassy confirmed “the presence on Tanganyika territory of Chinese subversion against the Congo (Leopoldville) Republic.

“As this situation presents a serious danger for the future of the world and peace in Africa, the United States has decided to put an end to it quickly by every means...”

The United States is a strong supporter of the Congolese government of Premier Moise Tshombe. However, American backing of Tshombe has been opposed by many African leaders, who regard him as a puppet of the former colonial powers.

The letter said that as a first step the United States would support Portugal in the bombing of strategic Chinese supply points in Tanganyika by taking advantage of the smallest frontier incident which could be produced between Portugal's Mozambique territory and Tanganyikan.

The letter said as a second measure special arrangements would be undertaken for the overthrow of the government of Tanzania President Julius Nyerere, a Tanganyika.

(In Washington, the State Department categorically denied the charges made by Kambona and the Nationalist and said: “They appear to be based on clumsy forgeries similar to others which have come to light in recent years intended by those who propagate them to damage the friendly relations existing between the United States

and the new nations of Africa.”)

The second letter in The Nationalist that purportedly was from the envoy to the foreign minister said Dar-Es-Salaam had become the entry point for all kinds of war materials, whether intended for the subversion of the Congo or even for Mozambique.

Thomaz to See A-Ship

LISBON, Nov. 11 (AP) Portugal's president, Adm. Americo Thomaz, has accepted an invitation to go aboard the American nuclear-powered ship Savannah when she arrives here next week for a six-day visit.